Volutomitra alaskana n. sp.

Shell fusiform, with about six moderately convex whorls; suture distinct, surface wholly minutely spirally striated, covered with an olivaceous periostracum over a white or yellowish shell; aperture longer than half the total length, with a rather wide canal, callous pillar and body in the adult, and simple outer lip; the canal has a well marked siphonal fasciole, and is slightly flexuous; plaits normally four, rarely three or five, strong and rather distant; nucleus almost always eroded; lon. 44, diam. 17.5; lon. of aperture, 26 mm.

Habitat in the southern and eastern parts of Bering Sea and the Aleutians, in 60 to 85 fathoms, muddy bottom, and southward in constantly deeper water, following the temperature of 39° Fahr. to a point off San Diego, California, in 822 fathoms.

This species differs from *V. grönlandica* in its much greater size, less rufous color, and pervasive fine spiral sculpture, but otherwise is very similar. It was first dredged by the writer in the eastern Aleutians, and has since been obtained by the U. S. Fish Commission. The Atlantic species is usually about 18, but reaches 27 mm. in length, and is smooth above, with a few coarse spiral striæ on the base.

COLLECTING SHELLS IN MONTANA.

BY MORTON J. ELROD, UNIV. OF MONTANA.

[*Continued from page 89.*]

Sphærium partumeium Say.

This beautiful shell is common in the ponds near Flathead Lake and around Missoula. They live in the dense vegetation, in company with Planorbis trivolvis, larvæ of Odonata, Cyclops, Daphnia, and numerous water insects. They are gathered by pulling out a mass of the vegetation, picking it to pieces, and here and there finding the delicate shells. A single dead shell was found on the beach of Swan lake. None have been discovered in the small cold water lakes in the Mission mountains.

Planorbis trivolvis Say.

This cosmopolitan species is the most abundant thus far found, and has been taken in most of the ponds where shells are found. It has been taken around Missoula in the streams, in the lakes of the

Mission Mountains as high as 3800 ft., in the ponds bordering Flathead Lake, and in Swan Lake.

Estey's pond covers some 10 or 15 acres, three miles from the Biological Station, and a mile from Flathead Lake. In August, 1900, the shores of this pond were literally covered with dead shells, and great quantities of live ones in the water.

It was here that a very interesting experiment was performed with these shells and a large frog. A dead shell was tossed in front of the frog, close to his nose. The shell was immediately seized, and an unsuccessful attempt made to swallow it. It was disgorged by the aid of the fore feet. A second attempt gave the same result. This was continued until the frog had seized the eighteenth dead shell, when he seemed to weary of the sport, and took a rest. After this he would seize only now and then, and only those in easy reach. After the 23d shell had been seized he no longer made any effort, and a good sized pile of shells was made with no result. Other attempts on other frogs gave practically the same result, with a slight variation in the number.

Planorbis parvus Say.

In August, 1897, while camped on the bank of the Pend d' Oreille river a couple of miles below the outlet at Flathead Lake, some sand siftings produced a dozen or more of these small shells.

(*To be continued.*)

THE SHELL-BEARING MOLLUSCA OF RHODE ISLAND.

BY HORACE F. CARPENTER.

[*Continued from page 96.*]

203. *Modiolus modiolus* Linné.

Mytilus modiolus Linn., Wood, Don. Chem., DeKay. *Modiola modiolus* Turt., Gld., Perkins, Dall.

Shell large, thick and solid, oblong-ovate; beaks at the anterior end which is narrow; posterior broad, rounded; hinge margin straight, ascending from the beaks at an angle of forty-five degrees to the centre, then curving downward to the posterior end; basal margin arched a little upwards near the centre, gaping at this point for the passage of a byssus; epidermis dark brown, thick, folding